

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7745

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, SG

SUBJ: STRIKE IN SENEGALESE FISHING INDUSTRY

PARIS FOR LABOR ATTACHE

ABIDJAN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

1. SUMMARY. CREWS STRUCK SENEGALES TUNA BOATS  
JULY 5, WITH WORK STOPPAGE SPREADING TO REST OF INDUSTRY  
BY JULY 7. WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS AT ISSUE,  
INCREASES IN SOME CASES ON ORDER OF 100 PC BEING DEMANDED.  
EMPLOYERS REFUSED TO BARGAIN WHILE STRIKE IN PROGRESS,  
AND GOS HAS TAKEN OVER NEGOTIATIONS, ORDERING UNIONS  
TO BARGAIN IN GOOD FAITH OR FACE DECLARATION OF ILLEGAL  
STRIKE AND CREWING UP FISHING BOATS UNDER POLICE PROTECTION.  
STRIKE HUNDRED PERCENT EFFECTIVE IN FISHING AND PICKETS  
PEACEFUL. ANXIOUS MOMENT WHEN UNION THREATENED TO CALL  
OUT DOCKWORKERS BUT THIS DANGER HAS PASSED FOR MOMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

2. SENEGAL'S FIST SERIOUS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DISPUTE IN  
SEVERAL YEARS ERUPTED JULY 5 WHEN MEN ON TUNA BOATS WENT  
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OUT ON STRIKE. TWO DAYS LATER REST OF FISHING INDUSTRY

JOINED OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR TUNAMEN AND TOOK OCCASION TO PRESS WAGE CLAIMS OF THEIR OWN. STRIKE HAS BEEN 100 PC EFFECTIVE SINCE BEGINNING, PICKETS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING EVERYONE OFF IDLED BOATS, AND DANGER OF VIOLENCE HAS REMAINED MINIMAL. ALL REMAINS QUIET AT FISHING PORT.

3. TROUBLE BEGAN WITH TUNA FLEET, WHERE DEEP RESENTMENT HAS BEEN SMOULDERING FOR SOME TIME. TUNE IS FASTEST GROWING SECTOR IN FISHING, MOST THOROUGHLY SENEGALIZED AS TO OWNERSHIP, BUT WITH LOWEST WAGES, MOST GRUMBLING OVER CONDITIONS IN ENTIRE FISHING INDUSTRY. TUNA ALSO NOTORIOUS FOR ITS LOW-PAID, MEAN FRENCH MASTERS OF MANY OF THE VESSELS. REST OF INDSTRY, THOUGH MORE OF IT FOREIGN-OWNED, BY CONTRAST HAS HIGHER WAGES, BETTER CONDITIONS, AND A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF SENEGALESE AS MASTERS OF FISHING BOATS. MARIN WORKERS UNION, WHICH REPRESENTS FISHERMEN AND DOCKERS, DECIDED TO COME TO AID OF TUNA FISHERS, QUICKLY SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING ENTIRE INDUSTRY OUT.

4. BOAT OWNERS REFUSED FROM BEGINNING TO NEGOTIATE WHILE MEN ON STRIKE THOUGH HAVE SO FAR SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER WORKER DEMANDS AND HAVE PREPARED NEGOTIATING POSITION OF OWN. THIS IMPASSE BROKEN WHEN GOS ENTERED PICTURE, ALARMED AT PROSPECT OF WORK STOPPAGE SPREADING TO DOCKS, PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER DIARAF DIOUF, AFTER MARATHON OF MEETINGS WITH BOTH SIDES, HAS GOTTEN MANAGEMENT TO GIVE HIM ITS BEST OFFER, AND LITERALLY FORCED MARINE WORKERS TO PUT DEMANDS IN WRITING. DIARAF DIOUF'S FIRST GOAL IS TO STOP STRIKE, AND GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING WHEN WORKERS BACK ON JOB. HIS LATEST ORDER TO UNION IS TO GET BACK TO WORK BY JULY 17 OR FACE HAVING STRIKE DECLARED ILLEGAL. GOS WOULD THEN LET INDUSTRY CREW UP BOATS UNDER PROTECTION OF POLICE. NEITHER GOS NOR UNION WANTS THE AFFAIR TO COME TO THIS, AND IT APPEARS TO US THAT WHEN MINISTER AND UNONS FIND WAY TO GET MEN BACK WITHOUT LOSS OF FACE BY UNION, STRIKE WILL BE SETTLED AND SIOUS NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN.

5. THREAT TO THE LOGIC OUTCOME ABOVE IS BASIC WEAKNESS AND INSTABILITY OF UNION AND ITS LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECGEN ALIOUNE SOW. SOW HAS LONG FAILED TO RECOGNIZE TROUBLES IN TUNA, OBVIOUS TO MANY FOR THE LAST YEAR, AND IN THE PRESENT EMERGENCY, IS NOT COMPLETELY IN CONTROL OF SITUATION. HIS THREAT TO CALL OUT DOCKERS, WHO ARE BASE OF HIS OWN STRENGTH, PROVED AN IDLE ONE AS DOCKERS HAD NO INTENTION OF STICKING THEIR NECKS OUT. PRESSURE NOW ON SOW TO REACT TO GOS DEMANDS FOR RETURN TO WORK, AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS HE MIGHT BE HARD PRESSED TO GET UNION TO COMPLY. GOS

WOULD THEN BE FORCED TO TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES. UNLESS FISHING RESUMES PROCESSORS AND CANNERS WILL START LAYING OFF PEOPLE FOR LACK OF CATCH BY END OF WEEK.

6. IT WAS ONLY ON JULY 12 THAT THE UNION, FEDERATION NATIONALE DES TRAVAILLEURS PORTUAIRES ET MARINES OF CNTS, GOT AROUND TO SETTING OUT DEMANDS. IN SUMMARY: 1) INCREASE IN BASE SALARY FROM 14,000 TO 30,000 CFA; 2) RAISE IN BONUS FOR CATCH - SHELL FISH TO 1000 CFA TON, SARDINES TO 125, OTHER FISH TO 400; 3) UP DAILY FOOD ALLOWANCES FROM 220 TO 500 CFA PER DAY; 4) RAISE FROM 500 TO 1500 CFA BONUS FOR SHIPS MECHANICS WHEN THEY GO TO SEA; 5) INCREASE PREMIUM FOR UNLOADING CATCH (FOR FISHERMEN AND DOCKERS) FROM 25 CFA TON NOW TO 150 CFA TON FOR TUNA, 75 FOR SARDINES, 300 FOR SHELLFISH, 200 CFA TON FOR OTHER FISH. UNION ALSO CITED VIOLATIONS OF ILO CONVENTION ON HEALTH STANDARDS ON VESSELS (WHICH SENEGAL HAS RATIFIED), AND IS ASKING FOR BED AND MATTRESS, TWO SHEETS AND COVERS AND SOAP FOR LAUNDRY FOR EACH MEMBER OF CREW.

7. THOUGH DIRECT UNION-MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS NOT TAKING PLACE, OWNERS HAVE COPY OF UNION DEMANDS AND HAVE PREPARED COUNTERPROPOSAL GIVEN TO MINISTER DIARAF DIOUF. UNION DEMAND FOR SIZEABLE INCREASES IN GROSS SALARIES COUNTERED BY LOWER MANAGEMENT OFFERS. FOR EXAMPLE: 1) ORDINARY SEAMEN GETTING 29,354 CFA PER MO, WANT 59,800, BEING OFFERED 30,354. 2) TUNA FISHERMAN DEMANDING INCREASING FROM 24,400 TO 63,000. OWNERS WILLING TO GO TO 30,000. 3) SARDINERS, PRESENTLY AT 28,500, WANT 106,500. THEY WILL BE OFFERED 30,000. MANAGEMENT NOT LIKELY TO RAISE THEIR OFFERS AND ARE IN ANY EVENT COMPELLED TO STAY WITHIN GOS WAGE GUIDELINES.

8. STRIKE HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN LOW KEY IN LOCAL PRESS AND BEING DISCUSSED ANXIOUSLY AT HIGH LEVELS IN GOS. FISHING IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA INTO WHICH SENEGAL WORKING HARD TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ANNUAL VALUE OF CATCH NOW IS 10.8 BILLION CFA, AND IV DEVELOPMENT PLAN ENVISAGES EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION TO ANNUAL VALUE ABOUT 20 BILLION CFA. GOS DESIRES HAVE WHOLESOME INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ATMOSPHERE IN FISHING, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO BRING PARTIES TOGETHER TO GET SETTLEMENT.

DECLASSIFY 8/17/74

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